

Mismanagement of *wakf* properties was rendered impossible in British India by a legislative enactment. Government should render assistance to the Muslim member of the Legislative Council who proposed to introduce similar legislation. Permission had already been asked for by the member.

The *Marumakkthayam* law of inheritance prevalent among the Muslims of Edava, Paravur and other places should be abrogated, as it was not in keeping with the spirit of the Islamic religion.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdur Rahiman Sahib, as regards your first point, as you yourself said, it is a matter which has to be taken up when the Electoral Rules are amended. When that is done, your suggestion will be considered.

As regards your second point, it was raised before and I have replied to that already.

As regards your third point, namely, revision of the pay of Koran teachers, it was raised previously, and I replied that the Koran teachers are paid Rs. 10. If they are qualified to teach other subjects also, then they are taken as general teachers and given the salary given to the latter.

As regards the other two points, I have already said that, if the community feels that legislation is necessary, and Bills are introduced in the Council, Government will find out the views of the majority of the community. You yourself say that one Bill has been proposed and permission has been asked for.

MEMBER: As regards the Koran teachers, it is not their fault. They do their work for two hours. They are not permitted to do work outside.

DEWAN: Why not? They are just like the Law College Professors; they are not full-time teachers.

190. Reconstitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. CHACKO VARKEY (*Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that the reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was a subject which was agitating the public mind for a number of years. Government, however, adopted a sphinx-like attitude towards the question. That a representative political institution like the Assembly should meet every year like a body of petitioners, without enjoying even a shadow of power, was indeed a matter to be regretted. It concerned the people, as it concerned the Government, if somewhat differently, to have the powers and functions of the Assembly enlarged.

The electorate of the Assembly should be widened by reducing the property qualifications of voters.

The term of membership should continue for three years.

The Assembly should be convoked at least twice a year, one meeting being held at the time of preparation of the annual budget. A representative of the Assembly should be nominated to the Finance Committee.

Final orders should be passed within six months on the representations made at the Assembly and the decisions should be duly published. Before the meeting of the next session, a statement should be published showing the subjects which were not disposed of, with reasons for the delay.

Members should be given the right to interpellate Government and to move and discuss resolutions on matters of general public interest.

191. Constitutional reforms.

MR. K. GEORGE JOSEPH (*Minachil taluk, Group I*) said that it was almost certain that the system of Government in British India would undergo a change in one or two years. Responsible Government would be introduced in the provinces by an Act of Parliament. Travancore would then have to come into line with the British Indian provinces.

The member then suggested that the following constitutional changes might be introduced with advantage to the people and Government. The electorate should be so widened as to include the entire adult population. The introduction of universal franchise would awaken the dormant political consciousness of the masses. Taxation and legislation should rest solely with the representatives of the people. Members of the Government should be chosen by the Legislature and should vacate office on a vote of no-confidence.

192. Responsible Government.

MR. T. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) said that the administration of Travancore compared very favourably with that of any other Indian State. In Travancore, civic rights were respected and the rule of law was an accomplished fact. But the representatives of the people were seldom able to shape the policy of Government.

Some Indian Rulers evinced an inclination to prefer foreigners to their own subjects to fill the higher appointments. Persons who had no stake in the country were not likely to take the people along with them. In Travancore, many a foreign Dewan had genuine love towards the State and its people. But the vast majority of them were not so. A son of the soil with ordinary ability would be able to conduct the administration with success.

The Legislative Council criticised Government. But criticism could be healthy and constructive only when the privilege was purified by responsibility. Responsible Government, or the subordination of the executive to the legislature, was the country's goal. The goal should be reached speedily.

An Executive Council was long overdue. But there was no use of an Executive Council, unless the members thereof were selected from among the non-officials also. If each member of the Council would